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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

EXCISE

Rec'd Georgetown 11/30/77

770

TO : The Ambassador
~~through DCM~~

DATE: October 7, 1977

FROM : Consul/RAMcCoy

SUBJECT: People's Temple

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY JOHN SIMMS DATE 2-27-81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

Enclosed is a copy of a newspaper article published by the "London Observer" about the People's Temple. It is more interesting than other newspaper articles reporting on the People's Temple because it describes Temple activities in Guyana in more detail. It is no wonder that many people are concerned about their relatives here after reading such articles. During my visit to the community on August 30 I did not notice any shaved heads.

Of equal importance to us here is the report that People's Temple activities are winding down in the US. This means that funds for the People's Temple programs here will not be quite so readily available from the United States. We are receiving Social Security checks for approximately 24 elderly members of the organization, and we will be watching to see how many more will come in.

This article was given to me by [redacted] E B6
[redacted] You met him at my home last Tuesday night at the [redacted] Section dinner party. [redacted] was given the article by [redacted] E B6 E B6
[redacted] remarked, that [redacted] E B6
this means "people in the Government are aware of this article." [redacted] also mentioned that he had heard [redacted] E B6 E B6
[redacted] as well as from [redacted] E B6
[redacted] that the People's Temple was no longer quite so trusted. Paul further stated, that [redacted] had E B6
confided to him that the police suspected the People's Temple were involved in drug smuggling. I know that a number of [redacted] are concerned about the People's E B6
Temple [redacted] E B6

Attachment: As stated above
(Please return to RAMcCoy)

CON:RAMcCoy:lm

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5010-110

Politicians once glad to appear in public with the Rev. Jim Jones (centre) include San Fancisco's mayor George Moscone (left) and the Lieutenant-Governor of California, Mervyn Dymally.

'Prophet' exit shocks California

from CHARLES FOLEY in San Francisco

MOVING out by night in small groups, nearly 1,000 people of all ages have left the American West on a 6,000-mile trek by bus, car and plane for a jungle sanctuary in the former British colony of Guyana.

They acted under secret orders from the Rev. Jim Jones, 45, a new 'prophet of God,' who predicts a fascist takeover of America to be followed by a nuclear holocaust.

Last week, when Jones was found to have joined the migration himself, thousands of the faithful in coastal cities from Los Angeles to Vancouver mourned the loss of their leader—not to mention Church funds totalling million pounds.

Shock waves are also running through the California Establishments, especially among politicians, bankers and businessmen who courted Jones's favour, praised his good works and benefited from his formidable political clout.

The *pudgily* handsome Jones, who arrived from an obscure mid-West mission 12 years ago, is no backwoods preacher but a prominent local figure—foreman of a San Francisco grand jury and chairman of the Housing Commission, with aides who have also obtained well-paid public posts.

California's Governor Jerry Brown, the mayors of Los Angeles and San Francisco, police chiefs and district attorneys attended his temple meetings. Vice - President Walter Mondale invited him to his chartered jet for a private talk. Mrs Rosalynn Carter, the First Lady, spoke alongside Jones on an election tour before a hall filled [illegible] admirers.

Behind his temple doors before a mainly black congregation, Jones, who is white, claimed to be an amalgam of Christ resurrected and a 'reborn Lenin.' He claimed to have cured cancer and the palsy and to have resurrected the dead—including himself. During one dramatic ceremony it appeared he had been shot by a hidden assassin. He was carried away covered in blood, only to walk back all smiles, wearing a fresh, spotless shirt. The crowd went wild.

Later came the prophecies. Jones had visions of race driven into the gas ovens and wars in which blacks were the Western world was destroyed in a nuclear conflict. Only blind obedience could save his followers. Money was needed to carve out a new promised land on the Caribbean coast of South America. Those who did not give would perish.

Denunciations

Members were urged to denounce each other at 'catharsis sessions' which lasted until dawn. Transgressors faced the 'board of education' — a wooden paddle wielded by a muscular disciple. Nurses stood by to treat the injured.

One girl, Linda Mertle, 16, [illegible] week pocket money. Some rattled begging boxes or sold pictures of Jones on Street corners. Others worked a 16-hour day baking or making quilts and bedspreads to be sold for the cause. VIP visits to the temples were skilfully stage-managed. Church members were put on show as rescued junkies and criminals.

The congregations were used to build up Jones's political power base. They voted as a block, rang doorbells, delivered leaflets, packed public meetings and signed letters by the thousand for write-in campaigns. In some close election battles, they backed candidates who knew better than to refuse the help of the man called 'Emperor Jones.'

Three years ago, Jones flew to Guyana on a prospecting trip. Dan Philips, one of a dozen trustees on the plane, said each of them carried £30,000 in cash, and Jones deposited a £330,000 cheque in Barclays Bank, Georgetown.

'The Rev. chose Guyana because the blacks there are English-speaking Christians and could be proselytised. He acquired several thousand acres of jungle to build 'Jonestown' and buried money there, said Philips.

None of this hoard has reached the men, women and children now working from dawn to dusk to clear land [illegible]. The few who have